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**Subject:** Chicago Tribune: Democrat J.B. Pritzker takes on Gov. Bruce Rauner over Sterigenics plant in new ad

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/politics/ct-met-morning-spin-rauner-pritzker-sterigenics-ad-20181008-story.html>

### **Morning Spin: Democrat J.B. Pritzker takes on Gov. Bruce Rauner over Sterigenics plant in new ad Sterigenics**

Chicago Tribune staff

Democratic governor candidate J.B. Pritzker is going after Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner in a new ad over the issue of carcinogenic emissions from a southwest suburban company where the governor has a financial interest.

"Sterigenics, it's an industrial sterilization company in DuPage County. Nearby, 19,000 people and four schools. Bruce Rauner's company owns Sterigenics, and when the Environmental Protection Agency recently found chemicals were causing an elevated cancer risk and residents became sick, Rauner disagreed," an announcer says.

"This is not an emergency. This is not a public health immediate crisis," the ad shows Rauner saying about the Willowbrook facility.

Rauner's former private equity firm bought the company. He has denied any ownership interest since 2015, though his statement of economic interest shows he receives income from an investment fund with ownership in the company.

The U.S. EPA has found the facility is emitting cancer-causing ethylene oxide gas at a level more toxic than had previously been known.

Amid an intense political environment in the traditionally GOP-leaning suburbs, Rauner joined a chorus of local Republican officials who have called for a shutdown of the facility after spending the previous month downplaying cancer risks from toxic air emissions.

The Tribune found that two months before a U.S. EPA report warning of the cancer threat was released to the public, the state EPA responded to the then-secret report by giving Sterigenics a permit to voluntarily install new pollution-control equipment. That made it harder to take legal action against the company. Rauner appointees also delayed providing the attorney general's office key documents about the facility.

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